

# Uniondale Messenger

Volume 8, Issue 12

December 2011

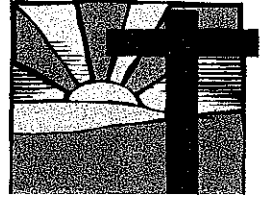
## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### December

18<sup>th</sup>- Emmaline Vebert  
19<sup>th</sup>- Ed Bowley  
19<sup>th</sup>- Jeff & Sharon Espich  
23<sup>rd</sup>- Daisy Swineford  
24<sup>th</sup>- Diane Winkler  
26<sup>th</sup>- Natalie Swineford  
27<sup>th</sup>- Bryan Swineford



## The Night Before Christmas!



One of the oldest and most popular Christmas poems ever, commonly referred to as "Twas The Night Before Christmas," was written in the early 19th century. Though its author is disputed, with the poem being attributed to both Clement Clarke Moore and Henry Livingston Jr. over the years, it was definitely first published on Dec. 23, 1823 in the *Troy Sentinel* newspaper in upstate New York. It is also referred to as "A Visit From St. Nicholas" or "The Night Before Christmas."

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads, And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap-When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash. The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow, Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below; When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer, With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name: "Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer, and Vixen, "On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Dunder and Blixem; "To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! "Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!" As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky; So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of Toys - and St. Nicholas too: And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound: He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot; A bundle of toys was flung on his back, And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack: His eyes - how they twinkled! his dimples how merry, His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry; His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow; The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face, and a little round belly that shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly: He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself; A wink of his eye and a twist of his head soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread. He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose and giving a nod, up the chimney he rose. He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle: But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight-**Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!!**

## Vision/Evangelism Committee Report November 2011

The Vision/Evangelism Committee last met on October 5th to finalize plans for the Family Movie Night and the Trunk or Treat events. Those events took place as planned on October 8<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Family Movie Night took place on October 8th and started off with fellowship and food which of course included popcorn! Then everyone moved up to the sanctuary to enjoy the movie "Summer of the Monkeys." This first time event was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to Kent and Mindi Herstad for planning and coordinating this event!

The first annual Trunk or Treat event took place on October 31<sup>st</sup> with 8 decorated cars and costumed participants. The event saw approximately eighty children come through and everyone seemed to really enjoy the event. Many good comments of appreciation were received from the children's parents. Many thanks to all who participated and helped to make this event fun and successful! Start thinking now about your Trunk or Treat theme for next year's event. Pictures from the night are on the website!

With the upcoming holiday events the Vision/Evangelism Committee will not meet until early next year. The Vision/Evangelism Committee is always open to your suggestions, ideas, and thoughts! If there are events that you would like us to consider for next year please let a committee member know.

Your Vision/Evangelism Team

### A note from the parsonage...

Dear church family,

This is one of my favorite Christmas card saying.....

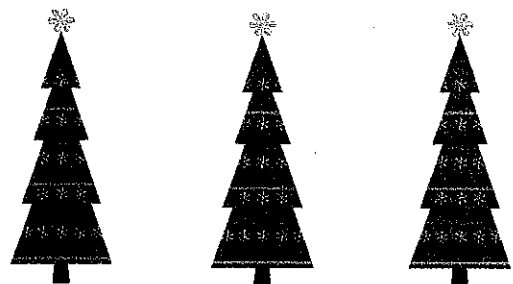
*God knew we could never buy our way to Him-  
the cost was too great; we could never earn  
our way to Him-the task was too great: we  
could never will our way to Him- the commit-  
ment was too great.*

*God knew we could never come to Him.....so He  
came to us!!*

This has been an exciting year for UUMC. God is so faithful and we can feel His spirit moving in this church and community. Troy and I could never thank this church enough or

express our gratitude for all your prayers and love. It has been a tough year regarding health and it looks like maybe some of 2012 too. We will continue to be faithful and lean not on our own understanding. God has a plan for each of our lives. Have a blessed Christmas Holiday and show God's love to others.

Pastor Troy and Mindy



## *Confessions of a Single Girl, living in a small town*

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalms 139: 23-24

I tend to be an anxious person. Actually, I struggle with anxiety on a regular basis. Apparently, I need to learn better coping skills...or perhaps just let myself have a good cry every now and then. I've always been a worry-wart. I worry about my family...I worry about my friends. I worry about my job and the people I work with. I think it comes from my natural instinct to take care of people. But here's the thing...I'm not in control. I tell myself that on a daily basis. However, it doesn't always stop my worrying. I even worry about driving in bad-weather. My worries can be classified into the following categories: MONEY, JOB, and SOCIAL INTERACTIONS (i.e. boys) :) It can be difficult to live on my own with a single income. There have been many months that I was wondering how I was going to make it through and I live a fairly simple life. But you know what??? God provides. He always works it out; no matter what. It may not be how we think it should work out, but God's plan is ALWAYS much better than our plan.

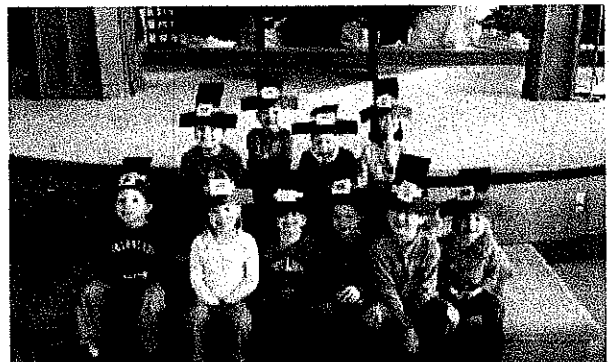
With my dad's recent diagnosis, it brings more anxiety and worries. However, God has a plan and He is the ultimate Healer. Dad's diagnosis could have been so much worse and I'm thankful that it's not. Now is not the time to worry...because that will get us nowhere. Now is the time for us to become prayer warriors. Actually, I believe that we need to be prayer warriors on a regular basis. We are headed into the season where we are celebrating the birth of Jesus. Take your worries, your anxious thoughts and lay them down at the manager. Pray for peace and contentment. May you feel God's presence during this Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of his Son.

*Amanda*

## **Little Einstein's Preschool Update**

We had a great November...and are looking forward to December. Our little Einstein's have been working very hard and are excited for our Christmas Program on Sunday December 11th. They ask us every morning when we tell them we are going to practice if this is the day for everyone to watch, (we just hope they are still this excited when they get in front of everyone). They also have been working very hard on school work, We have learned letters Aa through Ii, along with shapes, colors, number and skills. We would like to thank every one that has supported us and prayed for us and helped us along they way....this is one amazing journey.

Love, Jessica and Jennifer

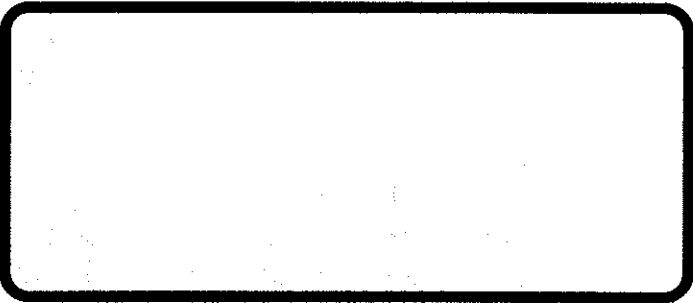


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We are on the web!!  
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**October Budget Summary**

	October Actual	October Budget	October Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	4,102.00	4,076.67	25.33	37,265.24	40,766.70	(3,501.46)
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	3,409.96	4,076.67	666.71	39,967.39	40,766.70	3,774.91
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	692.04	0.00		(2,602.15)	0.00	

**Faith Circle**, our new women's group, was begun in October. So far, we have met twice at the church. On Dec. 16, at 7:00 p.m., we will be having a Christmas party at Tina Barclay's home, at 5986 N. Miller St., Uniondale. All women are invited and encouraged to attend. Bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift to exchange. Our meetings are a time to share in faith, fun, food, and fellowship with other women. If you have questions, please see Connie Hix.

# December 2011

**\*\*We have lots of open spaces for various tasks during the church service---please sign up!!**

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Greeters---Tim & Dorothy Sound board--Tim Jr. Church: Elaine & Claudia Acolytes: _____	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Greeters---Tim & Dorothy Sound board--Bill Jr. Church: Connie & _____ Acolytes---_____	12	13	14	15	16 Faith Circle at 7:00 (Tina Barclay's)	17
18 Christmas Cantata Greeters---Tim & _____ Sound board: Bill Jr. Church: Claudia & Elaine Acolytes: _____ Breakfast---R. McAfee's	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service At 11:00 (Uniondale UMC)
25 CHRISTMAS DAY Greeters---Tim & _____ Sound board--Ernie Jr. Church: _____ Acolytes: _____	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve!!
1 New Year's Day! Greeters: _____ Sound board: _____ Jr. Church: _____ & _____ Acolytes: _____						